news line

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Benefits for library users
Wolfner Library acquires new automation system

During the week of November 4, 2002, Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped migrated its records to the Keystone Library Automation System (KLAS). The transition was smooth, given the help of the Secretary of State's Information Technology department and the Wolfner staff's experience in the intricacies of automation functions.

Even the KLAS trainers were impressed with the ease of transition. A good example was the expectation that 100 mail cards would be produced on Monday, the first day of operation, with progress throughout the week to 2,000 cards by Friday. Ken Gilliam, head of circulation, had other thoughts. He had more than 12,000 books checked in and ready to go so that 3,000 cards were printed and books mailed every day that week.

Most importantly, such readiness for the migration to a new system by Wolfner staff made the change unnoticeable to the library's users.

Major KLAS improvements include:

- Patron ZIP codes printed on mailing labels in machine-readable form for faster delivery
- Descriptive information about new books for the library's catalog downloaded directly from the Library of Congress
- New books available to patrons within 24 hours of arrival at Wolfner
- System is available the entire working day—a 20% improvement
- Back-up runs automatically at night
- Administrative reports easily created
- Monthly machine statistics sent directly to NLS
- Easier check-in of books
- If a patron enjoys a series, the reader advisors can arrange to have that series sent automatically to the patron in the proper order.
- Unique patron reading profiles, e.g., unlimited numbers of author likes (or dislikes).
- Addition of new subject codes, e.g., Best Sellers—Mystery, Books into and from Movies, Sports and Activities for the Disabled.

Gates Foundation awards major training grant to State Library

The Missouri State Library has received a $102,750 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to implement statewide technology training for library staff. The grant, provided through the U.S. Library State Partnership Program, has two goals: to promote long-term sustainability of public access computing in public libraries, and to assist state library agencies in meeting the ongoing needs of public libraries for training in the use of information technology resources.

The State Library will use the funds as seed money for pilot projects which take traditional training topics and apply new methods to its efforts.

Proposed training will involve three segments:

1. Regional workshops using the Gates training labs established through an earlier Gates grant. The State Library will create "training camps" where library staff is immersed in an assortment of technology for a three-day period. The

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Gates Foundation awards

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sessions will cover a wide range of topics and be designed for staff who have a basic understanding of how to provide public access computing but need to know more.

2. Training in clusters of two to three libraries at a library capable of supporting hands-on training (most likely a Gates lab). These sessions would be geared toward specific topics as requested by the libraries organizing the events, and would take place for a single day or less. Courses would be developed for new staff and those who don't feel comfortable with technology or how to provide technology training for library users.

3. Pilot projects to train library staffs as they request assistance for specific topic areas within technology—an "on-call" training approach. These two-day sessions would include staff at most skill levels.

"Library staff often feel challenged by the fast pace of changing technology, and the constant need to acquire new skills," said Barbara Reading, director of library development at the State Library. "This training will be of great assistance in raising the technical skill levels of library staff as well as their comfort level in their ability to use the technology with the public."

Library trustees attend professional development academy

Thirty-seven Missouri public library trustees attended the Fall Trustee Academy, held November 8-9 in the St. Louis suburb of Bridgeton. Charlaine Ezell from The Extra Edge, a library consulting firm, conducted the academy and facilitated its sessions. Kent Brown, an attorney who works with the Missouri Public Library Directors, presented a section on Missouri library law.

Ezell reminded trustees they have the responsibility of bringing the public library to life, maintaining its integrity and preparing it for the future. She offered training in these areas: strategic planning, forming library policies, advocacy, fiscal responsibility, conducting board meetings, and the board-director relationship. Brown discussed the various laws that affect Missouri libraries.

Academy sessions offered interactive and team activities. The strategic planning exercise required participants to build a library with Kinex, a construction toy. And the capstone exercise was a Jeopardy-like simulation exercise in which teams competed for points by answering questions about trusteeship.

Missouri library board members "build a library" at the Trustees Academy

Register now! The 2003 Missouri Digitization Pre-Conference and Conference is slated for February 18-20 in Columbia. Details about topics and speakers and a registration form are available at *www.virtuallymissouri.org/conference* *<http://www.virtuallymissouri.org/conference>*

Book Your Summer for 2003

The State Library has issued bookmarks, posters, and clip art for the 2003 Teen Summer Library Program to public libraries across the state.

Now in its third year, the program is becoming increasingly popular in libraries. The 2002 program showed an increase of 2,000 young people over last year, with participation from 7,789 youth ages 12 to 18.

"Book Your Summer" has been the program theme since 2000. Cheryl Unterschutz of Columbia, Missouri, created the artwork for the 2003 program. She teaches graphic design at Lincoln University and works as the university's graphic designer in its Office of University Relations.

Missouri issues homeland security publications

The tragedies of September 11, 2001, forced federal and state governments to reevaluate their response to emergency situations. At the national level, hearings were held and a new oversight agency has been approved. Missouri also has examined how best to protect her citizens from terrorist attacks as well as other emergencies. During the past year, state agencies have issued a variety of emergency preparedness publications, all of which are available on the Web.

The Missouri Office of Homeland Security website (*http://www.homelandsecurity. state.mo.us*) is loaded with information regarding safety, cyberspace issues, terrorism, scams and fraud, and links to related service organizations.

Three other reports are a result of the Missouri Security Panel. This panel, first formed by the Governor in November 2001, became a permanent organization under the Governor's *Executive Order 02-15* (*www.sos.mo.gov/library/reference/or-*ders/2002/eo02_015.asp*). The panel operates as an advisory board to the Homeland Security Office, suggesting ways to better coordinate security issues between state government agencies and local governments. In January 2002, the group released the *Kansas City Area Homeland Security Review* (*http://www.homelandsecurity.state. mo.us/kcpanel.pdf*) and the *St. Louis Regional Security Panel Final Report* (*http://www.homelandsecurity.state.mo.us/st louispanel.pdf*). These two comprehensive documents focus on risk assessment and methods to minimize those risks.

Building on the municipal reports, the Security Panel released the *Report of the Missouri Security Panel* (*http://www.home-landsecurity.state.mo.us/Mopanel.pdf*) in February 2002. This plan also looks at risk assessment, but on a statewide level.

Long before the Security Panel or Homeland Security Office, there was (and still is) the Missouri Department of Public Safety (*http://www.dps.state.mo.us/home/dps home.htm*). The department coordinates the efforts of many of the state's safety-related agencies, such as the Highway Patrol and Capitol Police, State Emergency Management Agency, the Missouri National Guard, the Water Patrol, Gaming Commission, and others. The department's annual report, online at *http://www.dps.state.mo.us/dps/dps 2002/cover2.pdf*, reviews each agency's yearly progress.

The State Emergency Management Agency, a division of Public Safety, produces a publication called *Missouri Hazard Analysis* (*http://www.sema.state.mo.us/ hazard.htm*). This volume looks at potential threats to the state, rates the probability of occurrence, and the impact of the event on the state.

For more documents about state emergency preparedness, or any state-related issue, contact your local Missouri Documents Depository Library. A list of those libraries is available at *http://www.sos.mo.gov/ library/reference/statedocs/sdeplib.asp*.

Web Watch

Blue Ear
www.blueear.com

Global journalism at its most interesting—a daily webzine with essays from writers around the world on politics, social sciences, and current events.

FindLaw For the Public
http://consumer.pub.findlaw. com

This site helps consumers with legal questions; information is organized into areas of the law that people commonly encounter. Includes a directory of attorneys in the U.S.

UselessKnowledge. com
www.uselessknowledge.com

For trivia buffs, this site offers quizzes, a random trivia generator, bad predictions, amd answers to weird questions.

Warrior Librarian Weekly
www.warriorlibrarian.com

An e-zine for information professionals.

Missouri Libraries

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Major grants to Missouri academic libraries

The John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis has received a $50,000 grant from the Union Pacific Railroad Corporation. The grant is intended to help the library strengthen its resources by purchasing rare and unique materials related to the history of railroading in the United States.

Barriger was recognized as one of the 20th century's most distinguished railroad executives. He also was an avid scholar, book collector, and photographer. His collection of books, papers, photographs, and memorabilia—collected over a career of 50 years—forms the nucleus of the library's collection, one of the largest rail transportation collections in the world. The photograph collection alone covers more than 200 railroads and provides a detailed visual record of North American railroads, 1917 to 1970.

The Mercantile Library acquired the Barriger Library in 1982, a donation from the Barriger family.

Southwest Missouri State University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives Department was awarded a $130,999 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish an effective university archives and records management program.

The two-year grant project will conduct a campus records survey, revise retention schedules, produce a records management manual, and provide workshops for records administrators. The workshops will also publicize the establishment, services, and holdings of the University Archives.

Records of SMSU's departments, research centers, faculty, and students document the evolution of the university. The records also reflect the university's broader role in the community and provide insights into the social, cultural, and political changes in the Ozarks region over a 97-year period.

Springfield library friends fund mobile services bus

A grant from the Friends of the Library has enabled the Springfield-Greene County Library to purchase an almost-new media and technology bus from Southwest Missouri State University.

About the same size as a bookmobile, the 30-foot-long vehicle, which was used as a computer mobile lab, is equipped for classroom use. The interior features 10 networked computer work stations, built-in cabinets, television, and VCR. The bus has a portable generator, rooftop air conditioner, and access for the physically impaired.

The library plans to provide a variety of mobile services to the public, including children's services and computer classes, and to use it for promotion at community events.

St. Clair County undertakes library expansion project

Work on an 800-square-foot addition is underway at the St. Clair County Library in Osceola. Library director Ruth Lewis said construction will take about four months. The addition will house two rooms: a reading room and a multi-purpose room. The reading room will provide more space for library activities including author visits and poetry readings. The multi-purpose room will be separated by doors from the main library, allowing it to be used during the day and at night.

St. Louis County Library opens 20th branch

The Samuel C. Sachs Branch of St. Louis County Library opened to the public November 11, 2002. The unique fan-shaped library was designed by Gyo Obata of Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc., an internationally known architectural firm.

Obata used dramatic window placement to offer natural lighting throughout the 16,800-square-foot building. Light oak shelving and furniture further enhance the brightness. Glass partitions for the juvenile area, com-

St. Louis County's Samuel C. Sachs Branch, the library system's 20th branch

puter classroom, and Internet room present the message that the library is a place of light. The branch features a colorful children's area, a state-of-the-art computer lab, a large reading room and reference area, and public meeting facilities.

The new library is the 20th branch and the final one funded by a 1973 tax referendum. It could not have been built without a donation from Louis Sachs. As the son of Samuel Sachs, Louis Sachs decided that a library would be a fitting tribute to his father, the founder of Sachs Electric in St. Louis, who began a family tradition of philanthropy in the area.

On the grounds of the library is a sculpture by the late George Rickey titled "Two Open Triangles Up Gyratory II." The sculpture is on loan from the St. Louis Art Museum.

St. Charles City-County Library ranks high on national list

The 2002 Hennen American Public Library Rating index lists St. Charles City-County Library in its ranking of libraries serving 100,000 to 249,999.

Compiled by Thomas J. Hennen Jr., based on the latest data from the Federal-State Cooperative System (FSCS), the ratings are based on tabulation of data such as visits

per capita, funding per capita, and cost per circulation.

The five states with the highest average rankings for their libraries are Ohio, Indiana, Utah, Oregon, and Washington. Hennen's ratings are posted on the American Libraries website at *www.ala.org/alaon line/hennen2002pdf.*

Riverside Regional Library conducts surveys

The Riverside Regional Library is in the midst of a three-county survey to gather information about collections and services at each of its locations. Library director Nancy Howland said the library needs formal feedback from its customers to pave the way for effective long-range planning. "We need to know what we are doing right, what we could improve, and what types of services and materials they would find most useful in their public library."

Howland and the library board are working on the project with Dr. Judy Wiles, associate professor of marketing at Southwest Missouri State University. Wiles has developed a series of surveys, to be conducted by mail to a random sample of county residents in selected senior citizen centers, within selected elementary and secondary schools, and within each library branch. The survey results will be reported to the public early next year.

Toolkit promotes value of school libraries

The American Association of School Libraries (AASL) has compiled a collection of ready-to-use tools for planning and conducting local advocacy campaigns. The toolkit (*www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy*) contains an introduction to advocacy and advocacy training, talking points, resource guides, and other support materials. School librarians can use the materials as they prepare to meet with their principals and speak with parents to promote the school library's positive impact on student achievement.

U.S. Supreme Court to rule on CIPA

Arguments on the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) are expected to begin in late winter or early spring, according to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court noted on November 12, 2002, that the government brief is due by December 27, 2002, and the plaintiff's response must be received by January 27, 2003.

In May, the American Library Association received a unanimous lower court ruling that CIPA is unconstitutional. The opinion was written by Chief Judge Edward R. Becker of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and joined by U.S. District Court Judges John P. Fullam and Harvey Bartle III. The three-judge panel held that CIPA is unconstitutional because the mandated use of filtering technology on all computers will result in blocked access to substantial amounts of constitutionally protected speech. The Court found that filters both overblock (block access to protected speech) and underblock (allow access to illegal or unconstitutional speech).

The lower court permanently enjoined the Federal Communications Commission and the Institute of Museum and Library Services from withholding funds from public libraries that have chosen not to install blocking technology on all Internet-ready terminals. As a result, public libraries are not required to install filters on their computers in order to receive funds from either agency. The Justice Department filed its Supreme Court appeal less than one month later.

The Supreme Court is not expected to issue a decision in the case until Spring 2003.

Over the past four years, more than $255.5 million has been disbursed to more than 5,000 public libraries through the federal E-rate program, which provides discounts on telecommunications and Internet-related technologies. The Library Services and Technology Act (via the IMLS) has distributed more than $833 million to libraries nationwide since 1998.

Laugh It Up @ Your Library—the manual and beyond

The State Library will conduct a series of highly interactive summer reading program workshops in 2003 that will allow participants to discuss new programming and promotion ideas—some from the Laugh It Up manual, some original—as well as opportunities to share their own ideas. The workshops, presented by the "Laugh It Up Players," will feature program ideas, stories, crafts, displays, and more.

The free workshops will be held from 9 am to 3:30 pm, and are scheduled at five locations around the state:
February 6 – Trails Regional Library, Lexington Branch
February 7 – Shelbina Carnegie Library

February 19 – Springfield-Greene County Library, The Library Center
February 20 – Poplar Bluff Public Library
February 25 – St. Louis County Library, Daniel Boone Branch, Ellisville

Workshop registration is limited to 40 for each location. Registration information will be distributed to public libraries in December and posted on the State Library's website.

Authors appearing at the Fifth Celebration of the Book included Stanley Banks, Margaret Sayers Peden and Joel Vance

Missouri Writers Read

Thirteen Missouri authors participated in the Fifth Celebration of the Book, held November 9, 2002, in Columbia. The Celebration was sponsored by the Missouri Center for the Book, with support from the State Library and the City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs.

The program offered author readings every half hour from 10am until 4pm., followed by a reception and book signing. The authors, all distinguished in their fields, ranged from mystery writers and poets to science fiction writers and humorists.

Held at The Cherry Street Artisan, a new cultural center, the Celebration attracted approximately 200 participants.

Vision campaign targets libraries

With support from the AARP Andrus Foundation and the National Eye Institute, Lighthouse International in New York City is spearheading a national public awareness campaign titled "Vision Loss is Not a Normal Part of Aging—Open Your Eyes to the Facts!"

Many older adults as well as their support networks still believe—mistakenly—that vision impairment is a natural part of aging and, as a result, do not seek help. In an effort to refute this myth, the campaign offers booklets, a promotional poster, and a bookmark that provide vital information for older adults.

To receive a sample packet of materials along with information about ordering bulk quantity free of charge, call Lighthouse International at 800-829-0500, or visit *www.lighthouse.org/vision_loss/* to view the Web version of the items and order a supply to meet your needs.

Adult services in public libraries

A new report from the National Center for Education Statistics presents data about three areas of interest for adult programming: adult literacy programs, programs for adult lifelong learning, and Internet access for adult independent use. The report provides information about the extent to which public library outlets offer adult literacy programs, the types of literacy programs offered, groups for which literacy programs are specifically offered, and reasons library outlets do not offer adult literacy programs. The report also presents information about the extent to which public libraries provide access to the Internet to adults for their independent use, and barriers to providing such access.

To access "Programs for Adults in Public Library Outlets," go to *http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/wnew.asp?1*

Secretary of State Matt Blunt recently visited the Mel Carnahan Family Learning Center of Phelps County in St. James. Judy Clay, director of the center, invited Blunt to visit during a Literacy Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) meeting. Blunt toured the center, visiting the infant room, the toddler room, and the preschool room, where one of the children, Summer Horton (above), read to him.

PBS presents "PBS Parents"

The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) has unveiled its largest website launch in years, PBS Parents (*www.pbsparents.org*). This new site combines the significant resources of PBS and local public television stations across the country to offer features, advice, and thousands of educational activities dedicated to helping both parents and caregivers raise children who are ready to learn. The PBS Parents website also features expert counseling from trusted PBS personalities and national leaders in child development.

One of the most notable highlights of the PBS Parents site is a comprehensive activity search tool, correlating thousands of fun and educational games, booklists, and projects. This search engine allows parents to seek information by learning theme and obtain activities that help children foster a variety of specific skills such as reading, math or creative expression.

The PBS Parents site offers a number of ways to connect parents and caregivers to their local communities and local PBS stations. By entering their ZIP code on the site, visitors will have access to TV schedules from their local PBS stations, as well as updated community information. Users can learn when their local PBS stations are sponsoring children's events and parenting seminars in their communities, and link directly to local stations' websites.